

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 878  
By Marrero

A RESOLUTION to commend Morris Washer for his honorable  
and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to  
specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to  
improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morris Washer is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest  
integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, his dedicated contributions to this State and our Nation, through his design  
and development of various types of refrigeration units, have distinguished Mr. Washer as a  
public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, born July 4, 1925, to Sam and Fannie Washer, Morris Washer attended  
Christine Elementary School in Memphis; while a ninth grade student at Humes High School,  
Mr. Washer had to put his education on hold in order to help support his family; and

WHEREAS, this was only the beginning of Mr. Washer's long tenure of lending support  
to others and helping to solve problems; while working part-time for his father and at Tri-State  
Armature Company, Mr. Washer learned the art and skill of auto mechanics which led him to  
open his own small motor repair shop; and

WHEREAS, during this time, Morris Washer began his employment with the Fisher  
Aircraft Factory as a part-time instructor teaching a riveting class for the women who would go  
on to become "Rosie the Riveters" working on the fighter planes manufactured at Fisher; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Washer aspired to follow in his brother Harry's courageous footsteps  
through service in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II; wanting to more actively support  
the war efforts at Fisher, he petitioned President Franklin Roosevelt for his aid; President  
Roosevelt responded that Mr. Washer was more important where he was and that his work,  
especially his endeavors in refrigeration, was essential to the war effort; and

WHEREAS, although Morris Washer received a draft notice to report to Fort Oglethorp, Georgia, he continued to receive deferral ratings because of the importance of his refrigeration work to the home front; and

WHEREAS, by 1950, Mr. Washer had acquired an expertise in development and maintenance of refrigeration units and was employed by Chrysler to maintain the warranties on their cars' air conditioning units; he also embarked on the construction of a facility for the Automotive Air Conditioning Company that he operated; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Washer continued his parts, sales, and service business throughout four decades, and thanks to his innovative design and development work, he came to the aid of many; and

WHEREAS, upon his father's ill health which lead to the development of ulcers on his ankles and legs, Morris Washer designed and fabricated a unit that helped cure the ulcers which doctors had feared would necessitate amputation; and

WHEREAS, officials from the CBI Nuclear Facility in Memphis enlisted the help of Mr. Washer to build a prototype air conditioning unit that could withstand the intense temperatures that were necessary in the manufacture of their product; the unit that Mr. Washer designed was installed in their plants nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Morris Washer's skill in design resulted in producing a quality environment for pilots of crop dusters when Memphis Aero Corporation requested his help; the unit that he created has enabled the pilots to fly in cool comfort without the fear of poisonous dust entering the cockpits or heat-induced fatigue; and

WHEREAS, also credited with developing the first prototype for shopping market scanners, Mr. Washer is still "working on gadgets," some of which include a hearing aid and an air purifier; and

WHEREAS, his myriad accomplishments and contributions have earned Mr. Morris Washer much deserved recognition, such as having a banquet held in his honor by the Refrigeration Engineering Society in Dallas; being named "Mr. Air Conditioning"; being saluted as "Man of the Year" as a result of winning an insurance settlement for Baron Hirsch Synagogue, where he has served as a long-standing Member of the Board and as Shamas for a number of years; becoming an "Honorary Member of the Baron Hirsch Ladies Auxiliary", after

winning them a full value insurance settlement; he has been acclaimed by Rabbi/Cantor David Skopp as "an a number one air-conditioning man, probably the best in this part of the country, a mechanical inventor, and a very good friend who's always been concerned about his synagogue."; and

WHEREAS, Morris Washer enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Jennie, before her untimely death; he fondly reflects that not only were they husband and wife, but colleagues "who worked side by side for fifty-three years without an argument."; and

WHEREAS, far from retirement, Mr. Washer currently crafts religious jewelry; he undertook this art form for his wife when he began to create platinum pieces for her because of her allergy to silver and gold; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Washer serves with compassion as the Warden for the Baron Hirsch Cemetery, and his loving kindness extends to all those who rest there and their families; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Washer's remarkable success as a public servant and community leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Washer is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morris Washer is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State", and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Morris Washer for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee through his laudable endeavors, salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and extend to him our wishes for much happiness and success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.